BENGALURU, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2023 www.Bangaloremirror.com 16 Pages PRICE ₹4

Bangalore Mirror ON SATURDAY

TEMP Max 32 | Min 16 | Humidity 35% Clear sky Sensex 59,463 | Nifty 17,465 | Gold 55,450 | Silver 63,482 | Dollar 82.89 | Euro 87.38 | GBP 99.01

TURN THAT GREEN LEAF: Why bio park on Bangalore University campus is an inspiration to all to nurture urban biodiversity

Park covers 330 acres of 1,100-acre campus

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Once a scruffy landscape, Bangalore University campus is now a luscious green environment thanks to one man: TJ Renuka Prasad has given his 100% in developing the bio-park.

Bangalore University was in the news over leasing out parts of the campus to other institutes back in 2021. Many environmentalists opposed the move. Professor Prasad did too. He met various government officials and requested the former vice chancellor Dr Venugopal to withdraw the plan.

In 2020, professor Prasad retired. However he fought to retain the bio-park. Retirement hasn't stopped his work. Now the bio park covers 330 acres of the 1,100-acre BU campus.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

"Birders have observed 168 species including the migratory ones in the park. Over 160 plus butterflies have been spotted

— TJ Renuka Prasad, Professor (retired)

Mental rental

BBMP audit report reveals non recovery of rental arrears amounting to Rs 29 cr

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) chief auditor has objected to the delay in collecting the rental arrears from Davanam Jewellers Private Limited to which the BBMP leased out Madiwala Commercial Complex for a period of 30 years. The audit report for the year 2018-19 revealed the non recovery of rental arrears amounting to Rs 29,24,46,480 from the lessee at the end of March 31, 2019.

"The assistant revenue officer failed to explain the reasons for the huge amount of rental arrears. The amount of rental arrears indicates the assistant revenue officer's dereliction of duty. The assistant revenue officer did not submit the report on the measures taken to collect the rental arrears," the BBMP chief auditor said in the report.

The chief auditor has recommended the assistant revenue officer to initiate stringent measures for the collection of the rental arrears from the lessee to improve the civic body's revenue.

According to BH Veeresh, a RTI activist, the assistant revenue officer (markets – south) and revenue officer, markets who are responsible for recovery of aforesaid amount have not taken any action to recover the same till date even after filing application

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 »

3 THINGS TO DO

01 Feminine intersections

Catch a special art show where three Bengalureans have tried to fuse different expressions and interpretations of femininity in an organic way. Anupama Bijur engages with the mundane aspects of her daily life, using humour and satire to open up a world of experiences to the viewers. P Gnana reflects on tender emotions and relationships, particularly those between mother and child, as well as the human-animal connect, while Rajini Rekha translates primordial female energies and their meaning, retelling mythological tales in contemporary context. **Where: Reves Art Gallery, Jayanagar 8th Block; When: Till Feb 28, 4 pm onwards**

02 Spring shopping

Swiggy SteppinOut has returned to Bengaluru with the latest edition of the most loved shopping festival - 'SteppinOut Night Market – The Spring Edit'. The spring shopping spree will host 80+ of the finest lifestyle brand pop-ups with an exquisite shopping collection. With an artist lineup featuring Ronaldo, Ravi, Mandala, Manoj & Manohar, Cross Roads, and A Square as well as a range of activities that guests may partake in, the event promises an evening full of fun and entertainment.
Where: Jayamahal Palace Hotel; When: February 25, 12 pm onwards; Tickets: bookmyshow.com

03 Swing it in style!

Hard Rock Cafe Whitefield presents the finest musicians live in Bangalore: Moksha All Stars. Get ready to groove on the timeless hits of Bon Jovi & Queen like`It`s my life`, `We Will Rock You`, 'Living on a prayer', `You give love a bad name`, `Bad medicine`, `Always`, `Bed of Roses` and many more. Mark your calendars and tune into a night of incredible music and the best of food and drinks. **Where: Hard Rock Cafe, Whitefield When: February 25, 8 pm onwards Tickets: Insider & Bookmyshow**

A good boy

A dog from the Border Security Force's (BSF) K9 Squad performs at the 4th MHA National Police K9 Seminar, at Dog Breeding and Training School, CRPF on Thursday.

Want to start a family late? Yes, it's possible

Oocyte cryopreservation or egg freezing is slowly becoming a trend among women who wish to delay their pregnancies, say experts

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Many fertility experts in Bengaluru are reporting a rise in number of women willing to try out oocyte cryopreservation or egg freezing. The method is used by those who wish to delay their pregnancies due to various reasons and while many have been hesitant to take it up in the past, it is slowly being a trend now.

Fertility consultants say that it is mainly adopted by those wish to pursue their career or education and choose to start a family later.

Dr Shubha Rao, Fertility Consultant, Ayu Health IVF Access said, "This technique has been used to enable women to postpone pregnancy to a later date – whether for medical reasons (such as cancer treatment), or for social reasons (such as employment or studying). Prior to the procedure, a pre-consultation is done to rule out infection. The procedure involves gently stimulating the ovaries to ripen multiple eggs. The oocytes are then extracted via an ultrasound guided surgical procedure under general anaesthesia by a fertility specialist. Once the eggs are aspirated, they are frozen by using a flash-freezing technique known as vitrification. The duration for which the oocyte can be frozen is generally 5 years, but it varies from centre to centre depends on the technology they are using."

Recently a 34-year-old female media professional decided to freeze her eggs to pursue her career goals. With this mindset, she decided to undergo the egg-freezing process after the procedure in which 12 oocytes were retrieved, frozen, and stored for future use.

According to Dr Lavanya R, Fertility Consultant at Nova IVF fertility, Whitefield, Bangalore, as women age, the risk of pregnancy complications such as miscarriages, chromosomal abnormalities, birth defects, and difficulty in conceiving increases. The optimal age range for egg freezing is between the ages 30 to 34 not later than 35 -37 years.

Dr N Sapna Lulla, Lead Consultant - Obstetrics & Gynaecology, Aster CMI Hospital, Bangalore however pointed that the eggs can be frozen even up to 14 years. "The longest egg preservation I have seen in my practice is for 10 years with a healthy baby being born. Studies have shown that it can also be frozen for 14 years. The procedure for cryopreservation is for pre-testing to be done at least a month prior to check ovarian reserve and blood tests and scans to know the status of the same. Next, the second step stimulation of ovaries by hormonal injections and monitoring of above on serial scans.

This method is widely used by women who wish to pursue their education or career or have various medical issues, say doctors

Third is for the retrieval of eggs and lastly freezing of collected eggs by vitrification process.

According to the doctors there could be some side effects after the process.

There are short-term side effects women may experience due to hormonal fluctuations caused by the medication such as - headaches, mood swings, insomnia, hot or cold flashes, breast tenderness, bloating, or mild fluid retention.

Most of the medications used in egg freezing are injected so additional symptoms may include the injection site could become sore, red, or slightly bruised, said Dr Lavanya.

Speaking on the success rate of the oocyte preservation, Dr Sapna said, "The success rate by American Society of Reproductive Medicine- Society for assisted reproductive technology (ASRM - SART) practice guidelines estimate the survival rate of oocytes after vitrification and thawing is 90 to 96 per cent and fertilization rate is up to 78 per cent and the implantation rate is 30 to 40 per cent. The clinical success rate for pregnancy per transfer would be 50 to 55 per cent and for ongoing pregnancy 30 to 40 per cent."

As sextortion cases rise, cops say be alert

Be wary of receiving video calls from unknown numbers, say police

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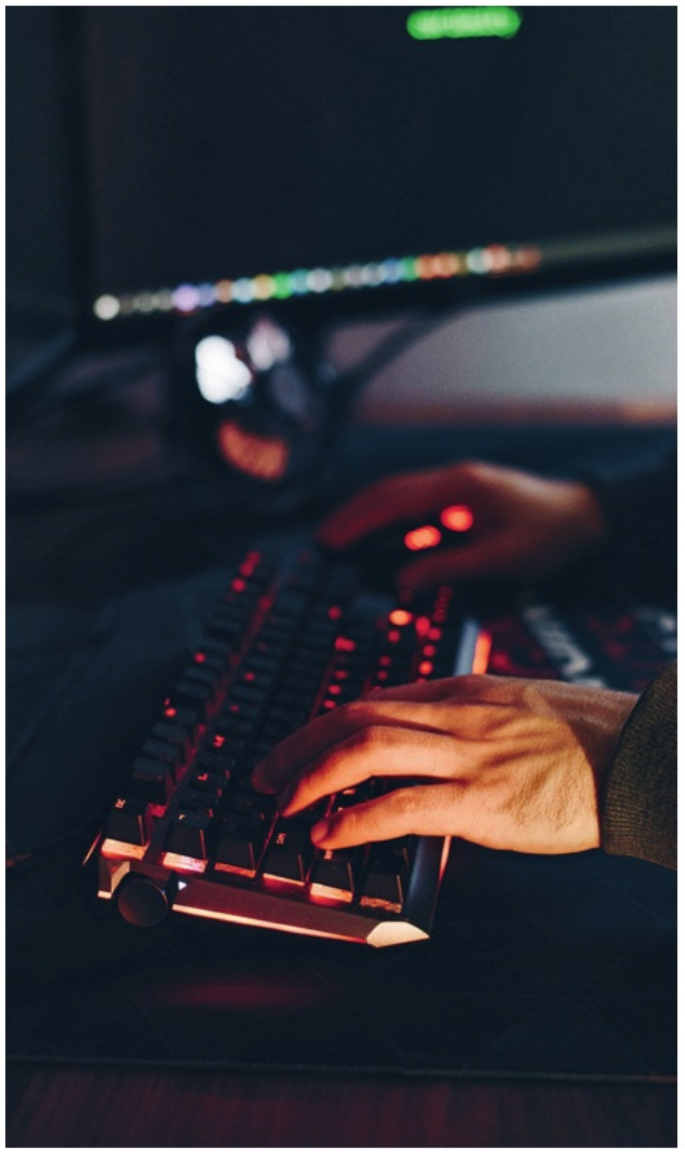
A businessman by profession, Akash (name changed) one day received a video call from an unknown number. On picking up, to his horror, he saw a porn video being played.

The resident of T Dasarahalli immediately disconnected but soon, started getting messages that his private pictures would be shared with his family and friends. He also received an account number from a cyber-criminal who blackmailed him to transfer Rs 50,000 immediately if he wanted his identity to be protected.

Akash's story is not an isolated one. City police say that such sextortion calls are increasing and it is high time family members of victims support them and report them to the police.

The police have also shared vital tips as to what a victim can do immediately. K Ramarajan DCP (Command Centre) said, "We are seeing a surge in sextortion cases where cyber criminals try to trap the victims via social media apps like WhatsApp, Instagram or Facebook etc. The miscreants try to befriend the victims and later initiate a video call. During the video calls, the miscreants may use a pre-recorded porn video or there could be a girl who tries to undress during the call. The modus operandi is that whenever such a video call is made, the cyber-criminals will be using screen recording to record the entire video call and also take screenshots. This will be used as a proof for blackmailing later."

He added that in case of such incidents, the cyber-criminals try to use the victim's fear as a weapon and extort money. Hence, 'don't be anxious', he said. If the victim wants to lodge a complaint and yet remain anonymous, then he can lodge a complaint via logging into www.cybercrime.gov.in where one need not share his phone number or name but need to give details of the accused.



Secondly, victims can call 1930 or 112 and provide all the details to the police or one can walk into the nearest Cyber Economic and Narcotics Crime Police Station (CEN) station to lodge a complaint. "Based on the complaint, we will take steps to freeze the cyber-criminal's account number and block his phone number as well. If the cyber-criminals have posted any objectionable pictures, then we will reach out to the respective social media platforms for deletion. I would say that 90 per cent of the victims are innocent and it is the duty of the family members and friends to support the victim instead of doubting them," he added.

> **"The cyber-criminals operate on the basis of fear; victims must not be afraid of being stigmatised and report it to cops at the earliest**
>
> –a police official

Another police officer suggested that people should avoid receiving WhatsApp video calls from unknown numbers. "The primary tool for the sextortion racket is video call evidence. If you are not sure of the caller, then don't pick up a video call from an unknown source. We have heard from victims that some of them use new tricks while taking video calls. Some of them keep the camera switched off or show the wall or floor while talking. However, the cyber criminals can still use the victim's WhatsApp DP (if there is a photo) to blackmail. So, always take precautions and reach out to police as most of the victims stay away fearing being stigmatised," said the official.

Reclaiming our footpaths

After Bangalore Mirror did a story on the "Never-ending issues of Nandidurga Road," on February 19, where the footpath had been encroached by local vendors and building construction materials thrown on the footpaths, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) took cleared the entire stretch up.

BangaloreMirror
Never-ending issues on Nandidurga Road
After bad roads being fixed, locals are now dealing with encroachment of footpaths

Our report on Feb 19 spoke on the state of Nandidurga road

The BBMP Vasanth Nagar subdivision issued an order to clear the footpath of vendors and remove all the waste materials dumped on the stretch. On February 22, the order was released and the next day, the footpath was free of all encroachments. The entire stretch was cleaned with the support from traffic police.

The residents were happy with the quick response by the BBMP.

Petition over political secy, advisor posts

The High Court on Friday issued a notice to the BJP government on a plea challenging the creation of roles of political secretary and advisor to the CM "to accommodate loyalists".

The notice has been sent to BJP MLA MP Renukacharya, former MLA DN Devaraj, leaders Belur Sudarshan and Kedarnatha Mudda.

The petition claimed that Renukacharya and former MLA Jeevaraj have been appointed as political secretaries to the CM, while Sudarshan and Mudda have been appointed as advisers to the CM in E-Administration Department and Commerce Industry Department, respectively, with the rank of a cabinet minister.

Taking up the petition filed by the Samaj Parivartana Samudaya, a division bench of Chief Justice PB Varale and Justice Ashok S. Kinagi issued the notice. **–IANS**

No lift at metro stations has Bengalureans peeved

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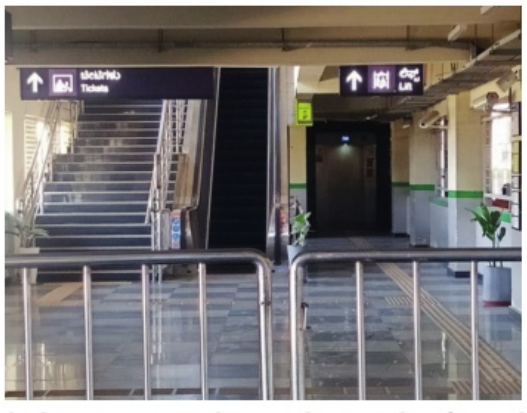
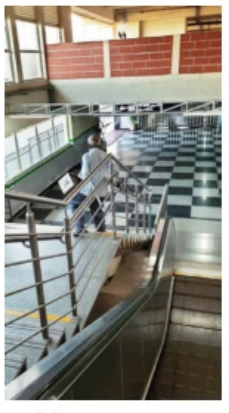
Bengalureans who take the metro's green line to commute, say that at stations like Vajrahalli, Talaghattapura and Doddakalsandra, absence of a lift facility is proving to be very inconvenient for citizens.

On one side of the metro, there is an escalator which allows people to go up to the train and alongside, there are stairs for people to walk and exit the station. The escalators are not two-way and even though there is a lift available at the Vajrahalli metro station, it is not open to the public.

Many senior citizens walking with the aid of sticks and pregnant women have to face the ordeal of climbing down the stairs and have started reporting about it in the complaint book provided at the station. Residents following up with metro officials say it should be open to at least senior citizens and pregnant women.



Stairs at metro stations are inconvenient for senior citizens

Seventy-three-year-old professor R Sathyanarayana, a resident of Sriram Symphony Apartment in Holiday Village Road, said, "I am a regular metro commuter. I take the green line to go from Vajrahalli to the Ambedkar Veedhi station. From our place of residence, I enter the metro through the eastern entrance of the metro station. There the lift is not working. We have to use the escalator and steps. It is very difficult for senior citizens like us. The lift hasn't been operating and they don't bother to address to the complaints of the citizens."

Activists say that despite repeated complaints for over three months, no action has been taken. VK Srivatsa, Secretary of Changemakers of Kanakpura said that they had even spoken to some of the officials from the BMRCL and told them to open the list at least for the senior citizens but no action has been taken. This is a problem in all the three stations: Vajrahalli, Doddakalsandra and Talaghattapura.

"We are not sure if the lift is under maintenance or if it only for the staff. A message was also sent by a resident to the BMRCL MD, Anjum Parvez highlighting the issue of the lift he has stated he will do something hopefully," added Srivatsa.

BMRCL PRO, Yashavanth Chavan said, "The Operations and Maintenance Department have been apprised of the requirements. They are working and the issue will be addressed soon."

RAJMOHAN SUDHAKAR

EVER CHANGING MOODS

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Two critical instances

The word 'narrative' is oftentimes misinterpreted. Nevertheless, powerful narratives are indeed critical for timely course correction at crucial junctures: essentially, influential campaigns woven around earnest human want for seminal societal change and not designed by paid ad/media or social media trolls that copy and paste phrases in hordes to run plastic trends. Any societal change of scale requires organic public uprising and collective will.

In this vein, two peculiar, and at first glance unconnected, developments had me thinking as they were earnest pleas towards necessitating transformational change in the status quo. These instances, surely the discerning reader will agree, are absolute needs of the hour for India with profound implications for the trajectory of democracy in the global south.

One is, of two think tanks in the United Kingdom - a relatively climate-ready country - advocating a persuasive global narrative around climate action and its benefits. The other has eminent lawyer Dushyant Dave passionately urging to salvage jurisprudence in India from the brink; the jurist was seen mounting sharp criticism at a recent seminar.

Both contexts are instances of persuasive messaging for a concerted effort to initiate decisive action that ensures radical turnaround in make or break scenarios — one for humanity's survival and the other for the rule of law in the world's largest democracy.

So why did the think tanks' research warn of a 'climate doom loop'? Researchers felt erratic weather triggered by the climate emergency could overwhelm resources and shift focus from crisis mitigation to just coping with the fallout of the crisis itself, resulting in cascading catastrophes. This could eventually see the world drifting away from meeting the 1.5 degree global heating threshold.

In Bengaluru and beyond, in fact the world over, if you look at how extreme weather turned life and infra upside down in the past few years and contrast that with climate action, except in a few highly climate conscious geographies such as the United Kingdom, mitigation is still far fetched. Allocation of funds and such to check urban flooding as announced in Bengaluru apart.

Massive wildfires, never-seen-before droughts and unprecedented floods continue to ravage the planet. Countries like India, seemingly lost in the vicious cycle of political skulduggery, are surely not ready and would be caught unawares if crises of scale were to strike. That's why an ever resonant narrative on the climate crisis, its impact and need to necessitate a radical shift in public outlook on this emergency is immensely critical for India and highly vulnerable geographies worldwide.

To digress to the second instance, as aforementioned, in one of the most scathing and earnest critiques in recent times of India's judicial system, senior advocate Dushyant Dave said 'the ideology that has set into the judges of the high courts in the past 7-8 years is extremely dangerous'.

The former president of the Supreme Court Bar Association, found it 'highly improper' that the bar did not find the Union law minister's recent remarks on judiciary's functioning condemnable. Dave pointed to the erosion of 'integrity, commitment and intellectualism' in judiciary and said 'not once has the apex court exercised its power of contempt since 1993 — and how this shows 'the Supreme Court was afraid to take the executive head on'.

The senior lawyer in his speech, video of which was reproduced by LiveLaw.in in its YouTube channel, cited how Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu plans to enact a law that would empower the parliament in that country to override the judiciary. Dave repeatedly drew attention to 'large-scale interference by the executive in judiciary in India' and suggested that certain judges and their appointment by the collegium were 'highly questionable'. According to Dave, members of the opposition parties and even stand up comics struggle to obtain bail in simplest of cases where bail was assured, even as citizens of the minority communities were subjected to deplorable violence in the country.

Judges of outstanding calibre, though far too few, are the reason why, Dave said, citizens still have trust in judiciary and why judiciary is the most loved after the armed forces. More or less Dave's passionate and pointed address at the seminar came across as perhaps one of the most sincere pleas in earnest in recent times to the fellowship of jurists in the country, the press and the general public.

The calls to action in the two instances are intertwined: one to rearrange politics, governance and policy factoring in the dynamics of the climate emergency, and the other, to facilitate rule of law by strengthening judiciary in the world's largest and most populous democracy which may prove critical for the poor fleeing crises; climate refugees for example. Nothing could be more terrifying and calamitous as delayed justice for the minorities, socially vulnerable and disenfranchised as the climate crisis exacerbates existing inequities fuelled by poverty, inflation and unemployment.

As silt hits the ceiling; BBMP says it will BRB

Civic body started work on digging and desilting stormwater drain at AECS Layout 5 months ago, but work has been stalled in between

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After recent floods in Bengaluru due to heavy rains, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) made tall claims to manage existing stormwater drains. A master plan with an end-to-end approach to managing the stormwater drains was also announced by Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai. The civic body also started the work by digging up the drains and desilting them.

The stormwater drain near the AECS Layout was also dug up for desilting. However, the drainage work has not been finished for months, which has irked the area's residents.

According to some residents of the area, the drain work which started nearly five months ago is now stalled. While desilting was done to some extent, the debris has not been removed.

"The drain work was started by the Storm Water Drain Department of BBMP after the recent flooding episode in the city due to incessant rainfall. They have de-silted the drains in a couple of places inside the layout to unclog them. However, the work that began in September and November last year has not been completed. Much of the debris is left behind, causing inconvenience to the residents and passers-by," said Indira Belde, founder of The People's Corp and a resident of the area.

Around a 200-metre stretch near CMR IT College has been dug up with no progress in work. While a large part of the stormwater drain work is completed, the footpath is in a mess. Locals say the officials have not notified them about the reason behind the delay.

"No one has informed us about the hurdles that they are facing or the reason behind stopping the work. The de-silted debris has been left unattended, leading to a lot of inconveniences. They have dug up the drains at a busy signal. All the vehicles clubbed with this obstruction is a perfect recipe for disaster," said another resident of the area, adding that the road has been destroyed in the name of improvement.

When residents of an apartment complex in the area reached out to the BBMP officials, they were informed about a tussle between BBMP and BWSSB, leading to the delay in work.

"We were told that sewage pipes have sustained some damage during the footpath repair work, leading to the delay. However, the residents, especially children and senior citizens face difficulties. The entry to our apartment complex is blocked due to the ongoing work and the exit gate leads directly to the ITPL Main road, which is very busy. The school buses have been dropping children on this stretch, which is scary," said Mandar, a resident of Shriram Spurthi apartment complex in the area.

Debris lies uncleared near the drain at AECS Layout

> **They have de-silted drains at a couple of places to unclog them. But, work is not yet completed.**
>
> –Indira Belde, resident of the area

Rental arrears 'over Rs 30 crore'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

under RTI on July 7, and a first appeal on August 8, 2022.

Veeresh said that it is also learnt that rent for the period 2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22 and 2022-23 is also yet to be recovered from Davanam Jewellers and thereby a total approximate amount of Rs 50 crore plus interest is due from them as on date.

"We therefore request you to initiate appropriate action in the matter for recovery of the above amount immediately failing which we will be constrained to take up the matter before the appropriate authority in the public interest," he said.

When contacted, BBMP South Zone (markets) revenue inspector Gangadhar said Davanam Jewellers have been paying some amount whenever issued a demand notice. "It is true that Davanam Jewellers have to pay a huge amount of rental arrears amounting to more than Rs 30 crore. Efforts are being made to collect the rental arrears from them," he said.

The BBMP chief auditor also raised an objection for not collecting the rental arrears amounting to Rs 24,27,000 from an eatery and Rs 38,12,187 from South Western Railways at Jayanagar Shopping Complex.

Horn not okay, for crying out loud

All that incessant noise, but traffic police has managed to book just over 300 cases in last 6 months for shrill honking

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Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP), over the last six months, has penalised only a little over 300 motorists in the city for shrill honking. According to the information provided by the department in response to a right to information (RTI) filed, 384 cases were registered at various police stations between July and December last year, and nearly Rs 2 lakh was collected as the fine amount.

Overall, the authorities caught hold of 1,362 such cases in 2022, generating a total fine of nearly Rs 7 lakh.

Maximum cases were registered at Electronic City station (47), followed by Shivajinagar station (34), Rajajinagar (27), and Pulikeshi Nagar (25). However, out of 44 traffic police stations, 30 stations have registered less than 10 cases in the past six months.

Netizens and no-honking activists say that 384 shrill-honking cases registered over 180 days across the city are less than the tip of the iceberg.

"On average, less than two vehicles a day booked for shrill honking in the city are far from the actual number of vehicles plying with illegal horns. Illegal horns have spread like a pandemic. It is high time the authorities implement the rules strictly and penalise the offenders," said Rajkumar Dugar, founder of C4C.

According to residents of various areas, the issue of honking is rampant around the clock

Residents from various areas say that the issue of shrill honking is rampant around the clock.

Raja Kannan, a resident of Begur Koppa Road, Hulimavu, told Bangalore Mirror that the area has been facing the issue of noise pollution due to shrill horns in tipper trucks that carry construction materials, and water tankers that honk relentlessly, without any consequences.

"I live in SNN Raj Serenity apartments on Begur-Koppa main road, and tipper trucks carrying construction materials and water tankers pass my apartment complex multiple times a day and use shrill horns while they are moving. This noise pollution continues during the night-time as well. This is affecting the entire neighbourhood, including senior citizens," he said.

> **We have raised many complaints, met policemen, and traffic inspectors, requesting them to take action. We also pointed out over 40 such vehicles**
>
> –Raja Kannan, a resident

Although multiple complaints have been raised regarding the issue over the past 12 months, only a handful of vehicles have been booked, residents added.

"We have raised multiple complaints, met traffic inspectors, and many policemen, requesting them to take action. We also pointed out over 40 such vehicles with their registration numbers and video evidence. However, the Hulimavu Traffic Police Station denied booking a case against these vehicles as they do not consider video evidence," he explained.

BangaloreMirror

A quiet place? 978 horn-blowers in city

Strange but true: Traffic cops have penalised just 978 motorists for needless honking in 6 months, collected ₹4.9L in fines till June this year

BM's report on July 16, 2022
BM tracks onto the noise pollution norm violators

BTP ended up penalising only 10 vehicles over one year. This number is not even comparable to the actual number of vehicles in the area using shrill horns, he informed.

The Indian Motor Vehicles Act, of 1988 bars alteration in motor vehicles with those originally specified by the manufacturer and prescribes that the violators be punished. It also says that needless honking should be punishable with a fine of Rs 1,000 and for a second or subsequent offense with a fine of Rs 2,000.

Currently, the city traffic police put a fine of Rs 500 on the defaulters.

According to activists, a sustained effort and heavy penalties in place are required to do away with this menace.

"The department has recently added new traffic police stations and manpower. The only way they can stop vehicular noise pollution in the city is by bringing in an optically discernable action plan, wherein people get to know that unnecessary honking will lead to heavy penalties. The traffic police department should conduct a drive along the lines of the helmet drive, and officially announce that they are serious about penalising the defaulter," added Dugar.

For these areas in Bengaluru, floods are a thing of the past

Everyone remembers the floods of 2022. Last year in August, large sections of the city were inundated with floodwater and visuals of drowning cars and people in rafts trying to escape became famous all around the world, tarnishing the city's reputation.

However, even during the height of the flooding, there was a part of Bengaluru that remained dry and open for business.

Many long-term Bengaluru residents are familiar with the muddy roads of Commercial Street and Russel Market during the monsoons, but last year even with 174 cm of rainfall, they were in for a pleasant surprise to see these roads dry and the drains working as they should. In fact, for the whole of Shivajinagar, the 2022 floods were not as big an issue as it was before.

"Earlier, during monsoon, we would have water seeping into the shop. It would mix with mud outside and flow on the road while people tried to walk around it or just gave up and walked in the water itself. It led to a major drop in customers during the monsoon season. But for the past two years, we have not faced this issue. Now our pathway remains dry even in the middle of the monsoon," said Aman Khan, a shopkeeper in one of the narrow by lanes off Commercial Street.

Shivajinagar MLA Rizwan Arshad says a lot of planning went into fixing Shivajinagar's flooding issues

From a topographical perspective, Shivajinagar is one of the low-lying areas of the city. In the past, interventions, including the installation of drains, have failed because of various reasons, including blockage by commercial garbage, lack of maintenance, a simple lack of capacity to handle increased amounts of rainwater, and desiltation process not being taken up for years.

"We would always have health issues during the monsoon season. If you have overflowing drains and rainwater mixed with garbage flowing regularly outside your house, how is it possible not to fall sick? But we don't face this issue now since drains are working fine for the past two years," said Neelufur Ahmed, a resident of HKP Road.

This turnaround in the fortunes of Shivajinagar was not an overnight achievement, according to the area's elected representative. "There were multiple issues to be dealt with. Some work on drain maintenance had taken place, but was in spurts and was not coordinated. We had many meetings with the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB), and Storm Water Drains department officials to chalk out a comprehensive plan for Shivajinagar," said Rizwan Arshad, MLA, Shivajinagar. "It took us two years to solve, but finally, last year, we saw results across the constituency," he said.

In 2022, popular areas like Broadway Road, HKP Road, and Russel Market prone to flooding in the past, remained dry, much to the surprise of residents, who did not have many expectations based on past disappointments. "Clean roads, no garbage dumping by shops and no health issues anymore. We had a very pleasant monsoon season in 2022 even though Bengaluru saw the worst rains in 100 years," says Abbas Khan, a shopkeeper in Chandni Chowk in Shivajinagar.

With the upgraded systems in place, monitoring and maintenance will continue, says Mr. Rizwan Arshad. "Illegal waste disposal is strictly fined, and upgradation work will be closely monitored. A little area of concern is Kamaraj Road and its surroundings, we will take up work in this area soon. We will also ensure that Shivajinagar's infrastructure is sustainable and long-lasting," the MLA stated.

Budget lifts realty sector

Bommai has proposed to develop 3,084 km of highways at a cost of Rs 1,20,000 crore

Roads are often termed as engines for development. In fact, the construction or expansion of highways play a very important role in developing areas. According to realtors, the realty sector is growing in and around Bengaluru's suburbs and nearby towns like Nelamangala, Devanahalli, Doddaballapur, Harohalli-Kanakapura, and Bidadi-Ramanagara due to o excellent road networks.

"If we have good roads, the journey time will be cut down. As a result, people will prefer to buy plots and build houses of their choice in these areas where land is available at affordable prices. Hence, there should always be a thrust on developing better highways," said a realtor.

Experts said that the recent budget presented by Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai has given a notable boost to highways. During his budget speech, Bommai proposed to develop 3,084 km of highways at a cost of Rs 1,20,000 crore.

"The Bengaluru-Chennai expressway has been taken up at a cost of Rs 5,486 crore, Bengaluru-Ramanagara-Mandya-Mysore highway at Rs 8,408 crore, Surat-Chennai express at Rs 4,544 crore, Hubballi-Dharwad six lane road at Rs.1,200 crore, and the six-lane Chitradurga-Davanagere-Haveri highway at Rs.2,611 crore. An approval has been given to develop the 92-km-long stretch of the Mysuru-Kushalanagar four-lane highway at a cost of Rs.4,128 crore," he said.

Rajesh R, a real estate manager, said, "The above mentioned projects play a very crucial role in decongesting Bengaluru. For example, the Bengaluru-Chennai expressway helps with connectivity to areas in and around Malur, which didn't have a proper highway until now. Thanks to the expressway, many can dream of buying plots even far from the city. They can also travel faster to the city because of the expressway. Similarly, Mysuru Road has brought the city closer to Mysuru, and the upgradation of the Bengaluru-Nelamangala-Tumakuru-Chitradurga-Davanagere and Hubballi highway will help people travel to these places and settle in nearby towns."

"If we have good roads, the journey time will be cut down. As a result, people will prefer to buy plots and build houses of their choice in areas where land is available at affordable prices. Better highways should always be the focus – Realtor

During the budget presentation, the CM also said that the State Core Network Road was 1,700 km long, and in addition to the national highways, state highway roads will be constructed at a cost of Rs 2,000 crore under the State Road Highway Development Project (SHDP) Phase 4, Stage 3.

"In the year 2022-23, under various schemes, development of state highways with a road length of 818 km, district and other roads with a length of 1,093 km, and 135 bridges at a total cost of Rs 4,221 crore have been completed.

By the end of March 2023, state highway roads with a length of 948 km and district (and other) roads with a length of 1,364 km are proposed to be developed at a cost of Rs.3,720 crore," Bommai further said.

–Prakash VL

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Vastu tips for bedroom paintings

You should not keep disturbing images in the bedroom, according to Vastu Shastra. Loneliness can be created in your heart by a painting of a solitary animal or human. Similarly, any pictures of war should be removed from the bedroom because these can lead to disagreements.

Do you have any photos that give off a negative vibe? Pictures of ghosts, evil or the devil should never be displayed in the bedroom. If you have such photographs, it is best to remove them from your home entirely.

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Growing veggies in the absence of soil? Works

Soilless production of daily greens gains momentum in urban, peri-urban agro spaces

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PICTURE FOR REPRESENTATION ONLY

The Indian Institute of Horticulture and Research has developed technology including substrate and nutrient formulation that will aid the growing demand for open and polyhouse soilless cultivation

Soilless production of vegetables is rapidly gaining momentum and popularity, especially in urban and peri-urban agricultural spaces. However, this requires suitable technological backstopping in terms of substrate and nutrient management.

The Indian Institute of Horticulture and Research (ICAR-IIHR) has developed production technology including substrate and nutrient formulation that will aid the growing demand for open and polyhouse soilless cultivation.

Such cultivation can used for popularly consumed vegetables like tomatoes, chilli, brinjal, cabbage, cauliflower, cucumber, zucchini, bottle gourd, ladyfinger, raddish, broccoli, French beans, garden peas, cowpeas, carrot, indigenous leafy greens (amaranthus, coriander, methi, gongura), and exotic leafy vegetables (lettuce, spinach, parsley, bok choy, celery). In this method, Arka Fermented Cocopeat (AFC) is used as the substrate, and the newly developed Arka Sasya Poshak Ras (ASPR) is used as the source of liquid plant nutrients.

Arka Sasya Poshak Ras is a unique balanced blend of macro and micronutrients for the soilless cultivation of vegetables, medicinal herbs and potted plants in cocopeat. It is highly suited for soilless cultivation under open, polyhouse, balcony, terrace, or roof top gardening.

> **"Soilless culture is one of the fastest growing sectors of agriculture. It could well dominate food production in the future**
>
> – Dr D Kalaivanan, senior scientist, ICAR-IIHR

The results of most of the experiments with different crops cultivated in grow bags under open-field and polyhouse soilless culture indicated that the plants grown in soilless culture (cocoponics) recorded higher yield. They were also of better quality, particularly in mineral nutrient contents compared to soil grown plants.

Dr D Kalaivanan, senior scientist, ICAR-IIHR, Hesaraghatta, said, "This technology is highly suited for urban and peri-urban vegetable cultivation for meeting nutritional security in cities. Soilless or cocoponics technology has generated a lot of interest among urban and peri-urban dwellers." The institute is also carrying out awareness and educating students on how to grow crops with soilless cultivation by carrying out programmes. "Soilless culture is one of the fastest growing sectors of agriculture. It could well dominate food production in the future. Many growers have already started adopting this technology for their daily vegetables. The application of these systems is likely to increase close to existing cities and mega-cities worldwide in the near future. Urban and peri-urban people can grow their crops of their choice to meet their daily vegetable requirements," said Dr Kalaivanan.

He further added that more than 100 school children, teachers, elected panchayat representatives, and members of the general public have benefited from the educational demonstration. Participants had a chance to interact and clear their queries about soilless vegetable cultivation in grow bags.

One man's green efforts

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Years ago, environmentalist Dr AN Yelappa Reddy set up the first bio park on the campus, and soon after Dr Prasad took over.

Before Prasad's retirement, there were eight parts of the bio park, but now it is extended to 16 parts. "After my retirement, I was appointed as the special officer of the bio-park by the former deputy chief minister Ashwath Narayan. I was given an honorarium by the former vice chancellor; I continued to serve the environment and biodiversity. No official order was given to me to serve as a special officer; it was communicated verbally. Yet I'm continuing all my efforts," Prasad told BM.

The 16 parts of the bio-park have different kinds of flora. "I have got plants from eastern and western ghats. The park has tree species from Kodlipet, Ankola and Thirthahalli taluk of Shivamogga. We even have plants from the eastern regions like Vijayawada and other places... I worked on a fruit garden which has 160 varieties of fruit bearing plants. Birders have observed 168 species of birds including the migratory ones in the park. Over 160 plus butterflies have been spotted too," added Prasad.

'Trench cum pit' method is carried out for the plantations. "For plantation, we employ the trench cum pit method, wherein a trench is dug two feet deep to help the plants get more water; this also ensures ground water recharge.

During the rains and for over two months after the rains, we do not have to water the plants. When watering is required during summer, we use drip irrigation to conserve water. The idea is to carry out maintenance half way through naturally and other half through artificial methods," the retired professor said. The campus also has recharge pits and structures that hold a few million litres of water. There are also borewell systems to carry out watering. "Due to industrial and infrastructural developments the groundwater level has gone down. Ideally it is supposed to be between 50-60 feet deep. But over the years, it has even gone below 1,000-2,500 feet. By creating recharge structures of wells and pits, the campus groundwater level is around 250 feet," Prasad explained.

There is also an exclusive geo park at the campus including a place where over 1,500 bamboos were planted. On an average, the campus houses between 5,000 to 10,000 trees now.

Dr Prasad disclosed that he has approached vice chancellor Dr Jayakar Shetty of BU to create valleys. "If we develop eight valleys in the campus with a designated buffer zone, we will be able to have 30 million litres of recharge water. Currently we have worked on two valleys; now I am asking for approvals to work on all the valley systems on campus. If we develop all the eight, we will have sufficient water supply on campus," he said.

Professor Prasad is leaving no stone unturned to carry on with the maintenance of the park while inspiring future generations to learn how to create more forest areas in the urban landscape.

"In December 2022, the university grants commission (UGC) released an order to create Nagar Vans in educational institutions to increase the forest cover. I want to encourage more people to come forward and plant trees and nurture biodiversity in the city.

With the help of several organisations, CSR funding and other donors, I could make my dream a reality to have a mini forest in the campus. I will continue to work for its development," Prasad added.

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Move the truck

Hennur

This BBMP truck for garbage collection has been lying idle for many months opposite Chris Hosmat Hospital in Hennur.

Abandoned car

Shantinagar

This car has been abandoned on Basappa Road, Shantinagar for over a month.

Drain pain

Begur

Rainwater drains were created only on one side of the road in 3rd A cross, Begur. The drain being connected in the middle of the road is causing problems.

Fancy a brand new cycle lane design?

As DULT installs new lanes separators on trial basis, city's cyclists wait for path to be cleared

Melvin Mathew
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@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

PHOTO COURTESY NIHAR THAKKAR

New cycle lane separators installed on the stretch near Kundalahalli Metro Station

As part of the design challenge held by the Directorate of Urban Land Transport (DULT), a new bicycle lane separator is being installed on Graphite India's Main Road. This is the second design of the three installations expected from DULT.

DULT Commissioner V Manjula told BM, "Out of three designs, we have implemented two. We had to manufacture the designs and allocate space. The designs are being implemented one by one."

DULT had organised a bicycle lane separator challenge and selected three designs. As a pilot project, the three designs are being implemented at different parts of the city under the Sustainable Mobility Accords (SUMA) grant. The first was established at SK Road, Doddanekundi as a bi-directional lane. The X-shaped bicycle separators made from recycled plastic allow cyclists to slip out without difficulty but prevent motorists from crossing into cycle lanes.

The new design by architect Leena Kumar is similar to traditional bollards in terms of the height of the separators. Painted in bright yellow and red, the bicycle separators are made of fibre drum-shaped structures propped on a metal pole. Taking lessons from the first trial, DULT will now also fix the separators into the ground with a chemical base. This will be in addition to the bolting system already in place. The usage of chemical cases at the bolting area is expected to improve the strength of the structure. Often, cycle lanes suffer from unexpected damage by the motorists and improved stretch and sturdy casing could help with the longevity of the cycle lanes itself.

In this particular stretch from Graphite India junction to Kundalahalli metro station, there will be two unidirectional lanes on both sides. Once completed, there will be around 1.5 km of cycle lane added to the existing lane. The second design is nearly completed and roughly 150m is yet to be completed. The third design from Hoodi station to Graphite India Main Road is under construction. The stretch between Graphite India junction to Kundalahalli metro station has been opened to the public, says DULT.

> **Of three designs, we have implemented two. We had to manufacture the designs and allocate space. The designs are being installed one by one**
>
> –V Manjula, DULT Commissioner

'Not yet open'

However, cyclists say that the cycle lane is not yet open for them. " It's not open for use to cyclists. The lane is only partially completed and with the footpaths being blocked, people were using the cycle lanes for walking. There is a need to provide adequate signage for cycling lanes and enforce it with traffic officials. Motorists on ORR also used the cycle lane to track the wrong side of the road and this must be prevented. There should be adequate awareness about the lane and its usage, " said Shilpi Sahu, a cyclist.

Wild tusker that killed 2 captured

Mangaluru Forest department officials on Friday captured the tusker that claimed the lives of two persons in Kadaba village of Dakshina Kannada district.

"We have successfully captured the elephant which claimed the lives of two persons," Deputy Conservator of Forest Dr. Dinesh Kumar Y.K told ANI.

He added that there are many elephants left to capture, including a baby elephant, and they will continue to conduct the operation in the area.

Soon after the big animal was captured, locals of the area got into an argument with forest department officials, and insisted on capturing another elephant who, they claimed, was troubling them for long.

Authorities assured to continue the operation the next day. However, their attempts to convince the locals failed.

The locals allegedly resorted to violence, and started pelting stones at the police and forest authority and damaging two of their vehicles.

Seven people have been arrested in connection to the incident so far, officials said. **–Agencies**

Safety checks at 12 stations

The 12 stations under the Reach-1 extension section under Whitefield and KR Puram were inspected by the Commissioner of Metro Railways Safety (CMRS) on Friday.

From February 22 to 24, the CMRS team inspected Whitefield, Channasandra, Kadugodi, Pattandur Agrahara, Sri Satya Sai Hospital, Nallur Halli, Kundalahalli, Seetharam Palya, Hoodi Junction, Garudacharpalya, Mahadevapura & KR Puram stations for passenger safety and facilities. Meanwhile, Tunnel Boring Machine Vindya, attained a breakthrough on Friday and is the 5th machine to complete its drive. **—BMB**

Green warriors

More than 1,000 farmers from different states participated on the third day of the National Horticultural Fair organised at ICAR-IIHR in Hesaraghatta on Friday. During the fair, a section of progressive farmers were felicitated for taking up various innovative methods in farming.

Shuttle protest: APU ready to talk to students

After 11 days of continuous protests against the high shuttle bus fees being imposed on the students, Azim Premji University (APU) has finally decided to negotiate with the students.

The students of APU have been protesting since February 13, against the university's decision to impose a fee of Rs. 8,500 per semester for shuttle bus services. On Friday, the faculty members present at the protest said that students under scholarship would be considered for a fee waiver, the students informed Bangalore Mirror.

The university provides need-based scholarships to its students, including 100% scholarship if the annual family income of the student is less than Rs. 2 lakh. A spokesperson from the university said that all the students, including the ones protesting, have been told clearly about all the fees and charges they will have to pay during their study period at the university, along with their admission offer letters.

"This communication to them includes a clear statement of the 'shuttle' charges they will have to pay, if they join the University, and choose to stay in the hostel (which is outside our campus). At the time of taking admission into the University all the students have agreed to paying all the fees and charges applicable to them, including the 'shuttle' charges of a total of Rs 8,500 for the semester of July-Dec 2022, and then another Rs 8,500 for the semester of Jan-May 2023. The vast majority of the students have paid all the fees as they joined the University, the spokesperson added.

But, they added the students have been engaging in disruptive and intimidatory behaviour against the management and disciplinary measures will be taken against them.

Meanwhile, the students at campus have been continuing with their protests. After they presented a memorandum to the Vice Chancellor on February 21, they also initiated a hunger strike on the same day.

"Students continue to be on hunger strike. Some students' sugar level has dropped to 55. This is the 3rd day of hunger strike," a student from APU said. **–Saumyangi Yadav**

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BENGALURU SPEAKS

and gets heard on this page

STORYBEHINDTHEPHOTO

THE PELICAN BRIEF

A pelican rests at the Puttenahalli Lake

The picture was clicked by BM reader **Trideep Chowdhury**

If you have a picture and a story to share, send us the picture with your name and number at **mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com**

DID YOU KNOW?

One of India's greatest scientists CNR Rao was born in Bengaluru. Known to have immensely contributed in the field of solid state and material chemistry, Rao did his high schooling in Basavanagudi. Over a period of five decades, he has made significant contributions to the advancement of the field of Chemistry. It is said that his high school made an influence on his interest in chemistry. After schooling he went to Central College in the city where he pursued BSc. In 1951, he received his bachelor's degree from Mysore University. The study he conducted on transition metal oxides has resulted in a fundamental comprehension of new phenomena. The scientist is known for receiving every award attainable in his area of expertise, with the exception of the Nobel Prize. In 2013, the Indian government conferred him with Bharat Ratna.

GET HEARD WITH MIRROR

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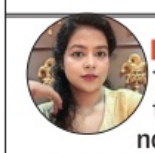
Let's see how much you know about Namma Bengaluru, folks. Tell us something incredible and mind-boggling about this beautiful city and our editors and researchers will check it out. If it's credible, we'll give it a shout-out, with your name and picture.

TAPTHECHATTER

where Bengalureans speak their mind

Which public utility is the most neglected in the city?

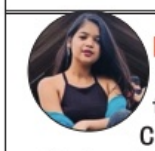
Apoorv Sharma, BM Reader
The most neglected vehicles in the city of Bengaluru are the buses that are not air conditioned, have uncomfortable seats and are slow.



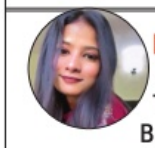
Pragati Bharti, BM Reader
The most neglected vehicles are the local auto drivers who are not registered under aggregator services. This is because they are either not interested in taking passengers to the destination or they are simply complacent.

Aparna Singh, BM Reader
The most neglected vehicles are the local buses which are non-air conditioned and local autos of the city, which are not registered under Ola or Uber.

Samyukta Kumar, BM Reader
The most neglected vehicles are the local trains at Cantonment Railway Station and the local autos. The auto drivers are lazy and refuse to take passengers. These days, due to hygiene concerns, many prefer not to use trains.



Niharika Gogoi, BM Reader
The most neglected vehicles in the city are the local trains of Cantonment Railway Station and the local autos not registered under Uber or Ola services. These drivers seem very lazy and are always up for an argument.



Kanishka Khandelwal, BM Reader
The most neglected vehicles in Bengaluru are the local autos, the non-AC buses, and the trains operating from Cantonment station. It is really sad that we do not want to look after this.

SPEAK TO US

How can public transport be made more attractive?

If you want to be featured in this section, mail us your answer to this question, in 25 words, with 'Tap The Chatter' in the subject line. Mail us with your name, occupation & a picture at mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com or WhatsApp us on 9591233247

Worn out roads put commuters at risk

Residents of Bande Mutt area say not even a single road in their area is in usable condition

Shreyashi Mukherjee
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Broken at places, with gravel coming off and iron rods exposed — this is the condition of Bande Mutt's roads

Residents of Kengeri Satellite Town say that roads of Bande Mutt are in a pathetic shape, making it difficult for commuters and motorists. The residents say that commuting on these roads is extremely difficult. Naveen Kumar, a resident of the area, said, "The road conditions are terrible in this area. There is not a stretch of proper road in this area. Each one of them is either totally broken or in a very poor condition. Taking our vehicles through these stretches is another dangerous task. If one is not careful, they can topple and fall."

Residents also said that the condition of the road has remained poor for quite a long time and despite that no effort has been made by the authorities to fix these areas. Manjunath Gowda, another resident of the area, said, "The condition of the roads has been this way for a very long time and we have been facing difficulties for a long time as well. None of them is okay enough for a smooth commute. Gravel has come loose on some stretches, posing grave danger to motorists. Something must be done to prevent any major accident in this area."

A resident who wanted to remain anonymous, said, "The road in front of my house is in a terrible state. There is no proper road there. While taking out my two-wheeler, I have to be so careful because there is loose gravel all over the road. I am afraid to let my children go out and ride their cycles as well because if they are not careful, they can injure themselves."

The residents also mentioned that some of the roads have worn off and they even developed sink holes in them. Sudhir Kashyap, another resident of the area, said, "The roads were built with poor quality materials and that is why they are wearing off so easily. It is the same with all the roads in the area. One of the roads have worn off in such a manner that it has developed holes and the metal rods are seen."

 # No TikTok please
EU's executive arm, the European Commission, issues an order to ban the use of TikTok on its staff's phones

BangaloreMirror | 11
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High on innovation, but low on security

India fares well as far as harnessing power of digital services go, but has a lot to do for cybersecurity, reveals report

India fares well on parameters such as innovation and harnessing benefits of the internet, but still has ground to cover when it comes to protection against cybercrime and invasion of privacy, according to a latest report.

Without an exclusive cybersecurity law, Indians have to rely on "anachronistic" and sectoral regulations, making "protect" the weakest link in India's otherwise remarkable digital transformation, said the State of India's Digital Economy (SIDE) report.

The report traces digital transformation through four stages of connect, harness, innovate and protect framework.

The report by ICRIER Prosus Centre for Internet and the Digital Economy (IPCIDE) gives a thumbs up to India's performance on "innovation" and harnessing the power of digital services. The 'harness' pillar measures how India is using the internet to generate growth, create jobs and improve governance.

"Despite being a lower-middle income country compared to its G20 peers, India's performance is significantly superior on the 'innovation' pillar. The next strongest suit is harness, where Indians are adopting digital services at a quick pace," says the report.

There are mixed results for the connect pillar, found the report.

"The weakest link in India's digital transition is the fourth pillar, protection against cybercrime and invasion of privacy. This requires urgent attention," the report pointed out.

It noted that the government is working to address this through legislations such as the Digital Personal Data Protection Bill and new guidelines notified by CERT-In. India still has a lot of work to do in adequately protecting the digital economy from cyberthreats, according to the report.

Cybercrimes reported by Indian users are the highest among G20 countries, it said, adding that India had the fourth highest number of data breaches in 2022, followed by Russia, the US and France.

"Another worrying trend is the increasing number of attacks in the government sector and state-sponsored attacks. There is increasing sophistication in cybercrime, cyber espionage, compromising organisational networks and data systems," it said.

Despite massive digitisation, India has made only modest progress in developing cybersecurity rail guards, as per the report.

The report lauded India for doing well on "innovate".

"India is doing surprisingly well on "innovate". It currently ranks the highest in contribution to open-source Artificial Intelligence (AI) projects, ahead of developed nations like the US," it said.

A higher percentage of IT workers in India possess AI skills than in any other G20 country. India has also been steadily pursuing the development and adoption of other emerging technologies like cloud computing, big data analytics, internet of things, augmented, mixed and extended reality.

India has the third highest number of unicorns in the world, having added 14 new unicorns in the first half of 2022. **PTI**

AI to identify nature of thousands of new cosmic objects

Scientists have used machine learning, a variant of artificial intelligence (AI), to identify the nature of thousands of new cosmic objects such as stars, black holes and pulsars.

The researchers at Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR), Mumbai, and Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology (IIST), Thiruvananthapuram, applied machine learning techniques to hundreds of thousands of space objects observed in X-ray wavelengths (0.03 and 3 nanometres) with NASA's Chandra space observatory.

The study, published in the journal Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society, applied the technique to about 2,77,000 X-ray objects, the nature of most of which was unknown. A classification of the nature of unknown objects is equivalent to the discovery of objects of specific classes, the researchers said.

This research has thus led to a reliable discovery of many thousands of cosmic objects of classes, such as black holes, neutron stars, white dwarfs, stars, etc, and opened up an enormous opportunity for the astronomy community for further detailed studies of many interesting new objects, they said.

"The finding demonstrated how a new and topical technological progress could help and revolutionise the basic and fundamental scientific research," said Professor Sudip Bhattacharyya from TIFR, one of the researchers involved in the study.

"This work has opened up an enormous opportunity for the astronomy community and demonstrated how new techniques could help and revolutionise the basic and fundamental scientific research," Bhattacharyya said.

The findings by the collaborative team, including Shivam Kumaran, Professor Samir Mandal and Professor Deepak Mishra, all from IIST, will be crucial to scientifically utilise the data from current and upcoming observatories. **PTI**

BITS & BYTES

ERASER EFFECT

Tech giant Google has announced that it is rolling out its artificial intelligence (AI)-powered "Magic Eraser" tool in Google Photos for Google One subscribers - both Android and iOS - and all Pixel users.

Introduced in October 2021, this tool was earlier limited to only Pixel 6 smartphones. However, now, Google One members and all Pixel users "will be able to enjoy Magic Eraser, a new HDR video effect and exclusive collage styles," the company said in a blogpost on Thursday.

The Magic Eraser tool detects distractions in the pictures, such as photo-bombers or power lines, so that users can easily remove them. **IANS**

ERICSSON LAY-OFFS

Telecom equipment maker Ericsson will lay off 8,500 employees globally as part of its plan to cut costs, a memo sent to employees and seen by Reuters said. On Monday, the company announced plans to cut about 1,400 jobs in Sweden. While technology companies have been laying of thousands, this would be the largest layoff hitting the telecoms industry.

"The way headcount reductions will be managed will differ depending on local country practice," Chief Executive Borje Ekholm wrote in the memo.

"In several countries the headcount reductions have already been communicated this week," he said. **Reuters**

THIS IS URGENT

Microsoft on Friday introduced new "set delivery" options in Microsoft Teams, with which users can now mark their messages as important or urgent. With the options, users can make sure that their messages are "given the attention they deserve", the company said.

Navigate to the "Mark as important" button which is present beneath the compose box and select either the "Important" or "Urgent" option depending on the level of attention the message requires. "Once you've marked your message, you can include all the necessary files, links, and pictures needed to get your point across. No longer will your messages be buried in a sea of unread chats," it added. **IANS**

G20 finance meeting in Bengaluru: PM Modi calls for World Bank reform

Prime Minister Narendra Modi added his voice on Friday to calls for reform of global lenders such as the World Bank, as G20 finance ministers and central bank heads met.

The talks in Bengaluru focused on the continuing damaging effects of the Covid pandemic and the Ukraine war, as well as debt relief for poorer nations reeling from high food and fuel prices. "Trust in international financial institutions has eroded. This is partly because they have been slow to reform themselves," Modi said by video link as the two-day gathering began. "We need to collectively work to strengthen multilateral development banks for meeting global challenges like climate change and high debt levels." The remarks echoed calls by others for the World Bank to boost lending and widen its remit beyond tackling poverty, although this has raised concerns that it could lose its top-notch credit rating.

Sticking point

It was unclear if delegates in Bengaluru would manage to agree on a joint statement, in particular because of differences over the Ukraine war, as has happened at similar gatherings in the past. Lindner and Le Maire said Germany and France wanted no weakening of the language used in a leaders' declaration in Indonesia in November that said "most members strongly condemned the war".

"For a year we have been witnesses of this awful war in Ukraine started by Russia. And especially on a day like this, and at an occasion such as a G20 event, we need absolute clarity," Lindner said.

Hosting a raft of Group of 20 meetings during its presidency this year puts India in an awkward position, as it has refused to condemn the invasion of Ukraine by its biggest arms supplier Russia. – AFP

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personal

CHANGE OF NAME

I, VENKTESH GOVINDU, R/a, #52/2,1st Cross, Ramaiah Lyt, Kammanahalli, Bangalore-43. I, have changed my minor son old name YESHWANTH to New Name YESHWANTH VENKTESH , Vide affidavit dated 22/02/2023, Sworn before Notary Meer Hassan Bangalore

I, Sagar Padawale, S/o Appasab Padawale, Padawale Galli, Karadga, Belgaum, Karnataka-591263, have Changed My Name To Sagar Appasab Padawale for all future purposes.

I, Rabiya Mohammed iLyas Shaikh w/o Saddam Hussain Khan R/o #160, DCC bank road, Fakeer road, Kolar 563101 have changed my name to Rabiya Mohammad iLyas Shaikh affidavit Dt.24/02/2023 notary Ganesh Gowda M.V, B'luru

I, Saritha Soni Lakshminarayanan W/o Himanshu Soni R/o Old No.42,New No.100, 1st Flr,4th Cross,SBM Officers Colony,Brindavan Nagar, Mathikere,Blr-54 have changed my name to Saritha Soni vide affidavit dt. 23/02/2023 before notary Chandrakala, B'luru

I, SOLANKI DHRUVIKA YOGESHBHAI, D/o Yogesh kumar Jayantilal Solanki resident at Flat 082, D Block SJR Palazza City, Janatha Colony, Doddakannelli Bengaluru-560035, have changed my name as SOLANKI DHRUVIKA YOGESHKUMAR vide affidavit dated 23.02.2023 sworn before notary Y. V. Shankar, Bengaluru.

I, Jyothi Rajiv, R/a 307/A-1, 1st cross, 10th Main, 4th phase, 7th block, Banashankari 3rd stage, B'lore 85. I have changed my name to Jyothi Anantharam. Vide affidavit dated 23-02-23 sworn before notary B. Sheshagiri B'lore.

I Kamini Babu W/O, Francis Babu R/o No.7/8 2nd Floor 1st Cross Abbigere, Lakshmipura Main Road. Chikkabanawara Post. Bangalore 560090 have changed my name to Kamini

I, Sadam Hussain Khan s/o Sayeed Ulla Khan R/o #160, DCC Bank road, Fakeer, Wadi, Kolar 563101 have changed my name to Saddam Hussain Khan affidavit Dt.24/02/2023 notary Ganesh Gowda M.V, B'luru

I, Farooq s/o Akbar Sharif R/o #1256, 5th cross, Faram colony, Ghousiya nagar, Mysuru 570019 have changed my name to Farooq Sharif affidavit Dt.24/02/2023 notary Ganesh Gowda M.V, B'luru

I, Vikram Kumar Jain S/O, Nenmal Jain R/o No 36 4th Floor K V Temple Street Cross Santhusapet B'lore 560053 have changed my name to Vikram Kumar for all purposes.

I, Balachandra Alla S/o All Sreenivasulu Reddy R/o #3,1st Flr, Rajamma Nilaya, Daksha Residential Layout, Hirendahalli, B'lore-560049 have changed my name to Balachandra Reddy Alla for all purposes.

I, Mohammed Naseer S/o Mohammad Saleem R/o #24 , 4th Street , Slater House Road , HKP Road B'lore-560051 have changed my name to Mohammed Nasir Qureshi

I Goyal Robbin Smith S/O, Alphouse Nicholas R/o #101, 6th Square, Austin Town Bangalore 560047. have changed my name to Robbin Smith for all purposes.

I Amthul Mateen W/o Syed Farooq Ahmed Door No 24, 13th cross 1st main Road Bapuji - nagar Bangalore 560026 have changed my name to Ameena Bi W/O Syed Farooq Ahmed

I, ZAHEDA, Residing at No 945, Avalahalli quarters, Bengaluru South, Anjanapura, Bengaluru-560062, Have changed My name to ZAHEDA BEGUM vide affidavit dated 23/02/2023 before Notary Aravind Patil G.G, Bangalore

I Kirit S/o Dhanji Bhai Patel R/o Arya Nivas No 7, 3rd Cross, Davidappa Layout, Near Kingston High School, Veerannapalya, Bengaluru-45 has changed name to Kirti D Patel for all future purposes.

I, Bhagwant Singh Tarjit Singh Chhabra S/o Tarjit Singh Hardit Singh Chhabra R/o F202 Kalpa Arowana,3rd Main,11th Cross,Brindavana Layout,Horamavu, Bengaluru 560043 have changed my name to Bhagwant Singh Chhabra for all purposes

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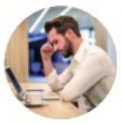

Reduce the risk of tired eyes by looking away from your computer for at least 20 seconds in 20-minute intervals

BangaloreMirror | 13
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THOU SHALT NOT SKIP BREAKFAST

This research, which focused on mouse models, is among the first to show that skipping meals triggers a response in the brain that affects immune cells

Study finds skipping breakfast can compromise immune system

According to a new study by the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, fasting may be detrimental to fighting off infection and could lead to an increased risk of heart disease.

The research, which focused on mouse models, is among the first to show that skipping meals triggers a response in the brain that negatively affects immune cells. The results that focus on breakfast were published in the issue of Immunity and could lead to a better understanding of how chronic fasting may affect the body long term.

"There is a growing awareness that fasting is healthy, and there is indeed abundant evidence for the benefits of fasting. Our study provides a word of caution as it suggests that there may also be a cost to fasting that carries a health risk," says lead author Filip Swirski, PhD, Director of the Cardiovascular Research Institute at Icahn Mount Sinai. "This is a mechanistic study delving into some of the fundamental biology relevant to fasting. The study shows that there is a conversation between the nervous and immune systems."

Researchers aimed to better understand how fasting -- from a relatively short fast of only a few hours to a more severe fast of 24 hours -- affects the immune system.

They analysed two groups of mice. One group ate breakfast right after waking up (breakfast is their largest meal of the day), and the other group had no breakfast. Researchers collected blood samples in both groups when mice woke up (baseline), then four hours later, and eight hours later.

When examining the blood work, researchers noticed a distinct difference in the fasting group. Specifically, the researchers saw a difference in the number of monocytes, which are white blood cells that are made in the bone marrow and travel through the body, where they play many critical roles, from fighting infections to heart disease to cancer.

At baseline, all mice had the same amount of monocytes. But after four hours, monocytes in mice from the fasting group were dramatically affected. Researchers found 90 per cent of these cells disappeared from the bloodstream, and the number further declined at eight hours. Meanwhile, monocytes in the non-fasting group were unaffected.

In fasting mice, researchers discovered the monocytes travelled back to the bone marrow to hibernate. Concurrently, the production of new cells in the bone marrow diminished. The monocytes in the bone marrow--which typically have a short lifespan--significantly changed.

They survived longer as a consequence of staying in the bone marrow and aged differently than the monocytes that stayed in the blood.

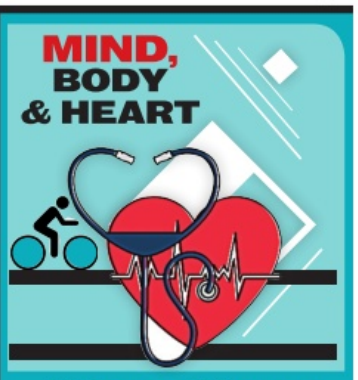
The researchers continued to fast mice for up to 24 hours and then re-introduced food. The cells hiding in the bone marrow surged back into the bloodstream within a few hours. This surge led to a heightened level of inflammation. Instead of protecting against infection, these altered monocytes were more inflammatory, making the body less resistant to fighting infection.

This study is among the first to make the connection between the brain and these immune cells during fasting. Researchers found that specific regions in the brain controlled the monocyte response during fasting.

This study demonstrated that fasting elicits a stress response in the brain -- that's what makes people "hangry" (feeling hungry and angry) -- and this instantly triggers a large-scale migration of these white blood cells from the blood to the bone marrow, and then back to the bloodstream shortly after a food is reintroduced.

Dr Swirski emphasised that while there is also evidence of the metabolic benefits of fasting, this new study is a useful advance in the full understanding of the body's mechanisms.

"The study shows that, on the one hand, fasting reduces the number of circulating monocytes, which one might think is a good thing, as these cells are important components of inflammation. On the other hand, the reintroduction of food creates a surge of monocytes flooding back into the blood, which can be problematic. Fasting, therefore regulates this pool in ways that are not always beneficial to the body's capacity to respond to a challenge such as an infection," explains Dr Swirski. **—ANI**



All problems solved

Dear Coleen

I'm a 28-year-old woman and my boyfriend is 30. We've been with each other for about 18 months and moved in together just before Christmas.
He is wonderful in so many ways, but because he was badly burned by an ex, he has serious trust issues when it comes to our relationship.
His long-term ex-girlfriend slept with one of his best mates, but he forgave her only for her to sleep with someone else.
He ended the relationship, but was very hurt by what happened and also lost an important friendship along the way.
He's very loving with me, but always wants to know where I've been, who I've been with and, if I'm late home, I get an interrogation. I end up feeling guilty even though I've done nothing wrong!
I'm starting to panic if my train's late and feel like I'm walking on eggshells.
I've never done anything to make him doubt me.
I've told him how he's making me feel on more than one occasion, but he can't seem to help it. I really love him and I don't want this to come across like he's controlling or abusive because he's not, but I'm tired of his paranoia. Can you help?

COLEEN SAYS

Let's be clear – this is his issue, not yours and it's incredibly hard to have to constantly justify yourself and reassure a partner who's so insecure.
The bottom line is, nothing you say will make a difference if he doesn't admit that he has an issue with trust and deal with it. And maybe he needs some counselling too.
It's important to get across to him that you won't put up with it and unless he does take steps to change his behaviour, your relationship will fail.
This really takes its toll on your sense of self and the freedom to live your life.

—Coleen Nolan, Daily Mirror

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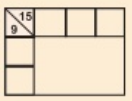
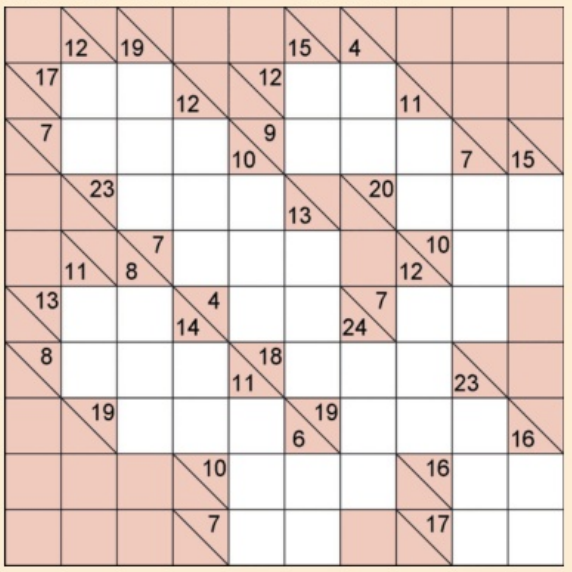
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

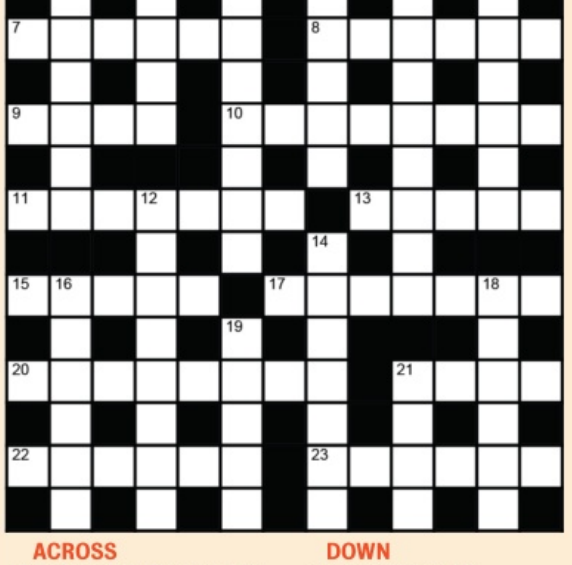


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 Knife used for stabbing (6)
8 Bound or busy? (4,2)
9 Headland (4)
10 Ms Jolie of Hollywood (8)
11 Taught a student (7)
13 A small two-door car (5)
15 Farewell (5)
17 Admit; disclose (7)
20 Iceland agate (8)
21 Beginning at (4)
22 An unpaid and overdue debt (6)
23 Sounds (6)

DOWN

1 A French cake (6)
2 ___ on : incites (4)
3 Made or produced (7)
4 Male deer (5)
5 Rebukes (5,3)
6 Increase; arrive (4,2)
12 Unequal (contest) (3-5)
14 Dawn to noon (7)
16 The elephants for the Mysore Dussehra were trained at this camp (6)
18 Exhibited or displayed (6)
19 Half-crown (5)
21 Somersault; jump (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: L EQUALS D

VA DGW CWK ITA ISL YIC DGIQ CWK UAAB, VAXIKYA QGWYA DGW JZSL LWS'Q JIQQAT ISL QGWYA DGW JIQQAT LWS'Q JZSL.

Linemaro

Excuse me, if I go straight this way, will I be able to reach your heart?

Mindchow

If we stop trying to be happy we could have a pretty good time

Joke of the day

Girl: I think poorest people are happiest
Boy: Marry me, I'm really poor

Loop

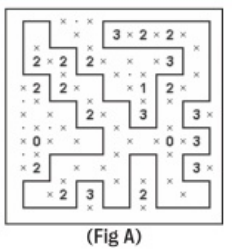
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

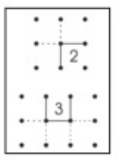
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

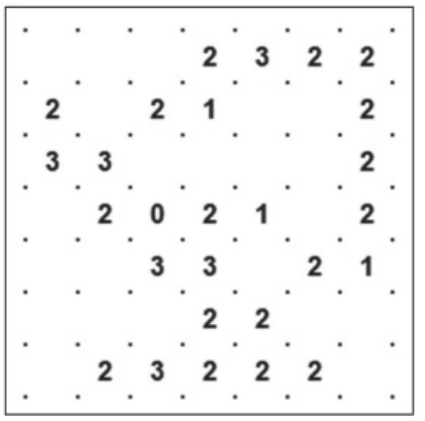
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



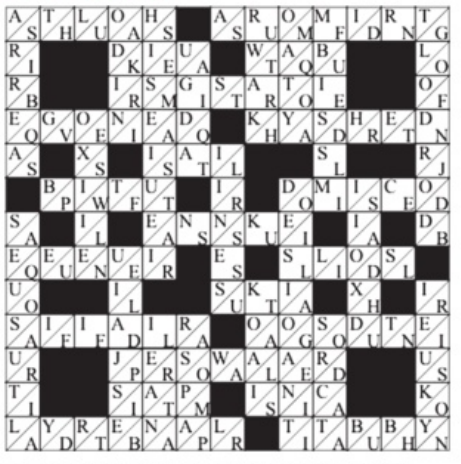
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...

1	2	3	4	5
6				N
7				
8				
9				

ACROSS

1 Sir BC; 6 Siren;
7 Oasis; 8 CK Hun;
9 Gees I

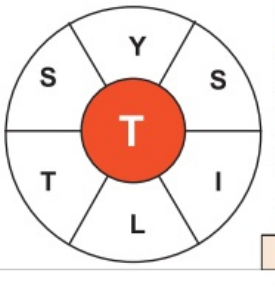
DOWN

1 Or CCs; 2 Irish;
3 Sues I; 4 Begin;
5 Skean

Mensapuzzle

What letter comes next?

A D H K O ?



Bull's eye

How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

04 Average; 05 Good; 06 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

9		1				3		4
	8		5		6		1	
			3		9			
	9	8	6		2	7	3	
	6	3	4		8	2	5	
			2		5			
	7		1		3		8	
8		9				5		3

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

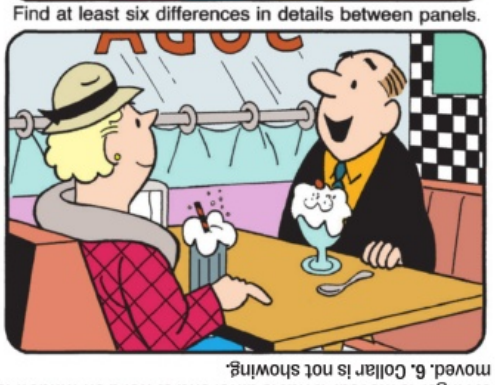
Easy = 8
1 4 5 8

Medium = 17
2 3 5 7

Hard = 29
2 5 6 2

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



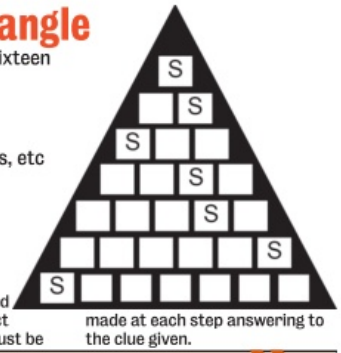
Differences: 1. Spoon is moved. 2. Straw is shorter. 3. Finger is moved. 4. Hat is different. 5. Word on window is moved. 6. Collar is not showing.

Riddler

Which three letter word completes the following longer words: far—ll, sk—r,j—l, —r

Alpha triangle

1 Atomic number Sixteen
2 Less more
3 Take a chair
4 Clenched hand
5 In the lead
6 Oranges, bananas, etc
7 Excess



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Redeye by Mel Casson

I CAN'T STAND IT ANY LONGER! GET JERKYMIAH'S SMELLY CLOTHES!
WELL, JERKYMIAH, LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE GOING TO GET YOUR CLOTHES WASHED
SHORE DON'T LOOK LIKE RAIN TUH ME!
12/9

Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

EVEN THOUGH MY FAMILY WAS POOR...
EVERY YEAR, WE ALWAYS HAD A CHRISTMAS PIG!
HOW NICE
THAT'S WHAT MY MOM CALLED UNCLE HARRY!
www.creators.com

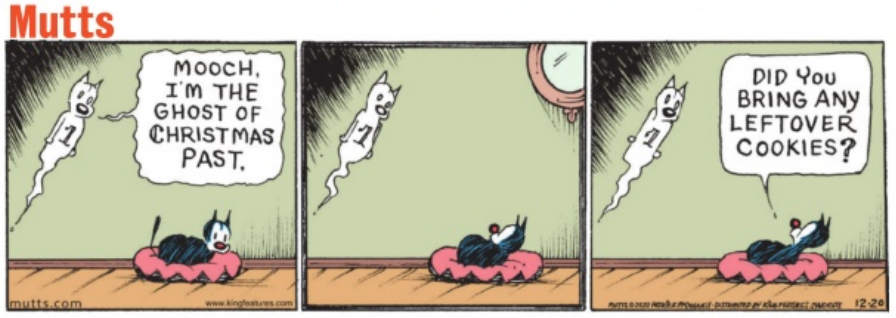
Hart of the city

ARE YOU SURE WE SHOULD DO THIS HOUSE NEXT?
DON'T LET THE SIGNS SCARE YOU! MR. SCOTT IS A RECLUSE, BUT GENEROUS!
SCOOP!
SCOOP!
WHAT'D I TELL YA?
THANK YOU!

Crankshaft

DID THEY BRING BACK PHIL THE FORECASTER?
HE LOOKS A LITTLE OLDER... BUT I THINK THAT'S HIM.
GOOD... I WAS AFRAID I WAS HAVING A CASE OF DÉJÀ 'VIEW'!
12-16

Mutts



WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today you are blessed by the moon. Small investments may convert to big profits. Your working efficiency may be increased now. You are likely to get success with less effort. You may hear good news in legal matters too. You may have full control over your opponents and rivals.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today you are blessed by the moon. Minimal effort may bring you success. You are likely to have good profits from past investments. You will get rewards for your hard work in your professional and domestic life. Your prestige may be increased now. You may start new innovations in business. Disputes with your spouse may be resolved now.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today you may feel better. Situations may be under control. Your network may help you on the work front. You may plan for overseas travel. This is a good time to improve your domestic harmony and love life. you may bring some artefacts or creative items for your family. You may also plan to watch movies or go out with friends or family.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today you may get tired due to overworking. It can make you lazy and careless. You are advised to keep patience. If you are planning to go for adventure tours, you are advised to postpone it for a while. Your past investments may convert to dead stock. Students are advised to work hard. You may have backaches, nervous system, liver, and skin issues.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today your creativity may be high. You may plan to renovate your house. You may buy some items to renovate your house or office, which may increase your social status. There is likely to be harmony with your spouse. It creates harmony in your domestic life. Disputes with friends, co-workers, and partners may settle down. You may get good news in terms of litigation.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today you will be glad. You will be able to maintain a balance between your earnings and expenditures, which will boost your finances. Your network will help you implement your plans. Your siblings and subordinate staff will be helpful today. You can visit your elders or a spiritual place.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today you may feel dull due to sleeplessness. You may be scattered towards your goals. This may affect your working efficiency. You may plan to visit some spiritual place. In the evening, you may be blessed by your elders. You may find out your mistakes and make a good plan for the coming day. You are advised to take care of your parents' health.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, until late afternoon, you may feel dull. This may reflect into your way of working. But with the help of elders, you are likely to regain your speed. You are likely to pay extra attention to your kids' health. You will be in a winning position against your enemies and opponents. Investors should be careful while taking difficult decisions. Stomach issues may upset you.

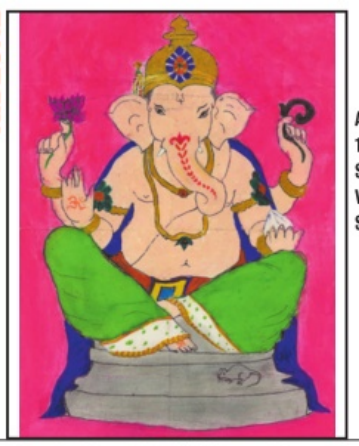
Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today you may be happy at work. You are likely to take some important decisions by the end of the day, which will help you in the near future. You may plan for a short trip. Your subordinates are likely to be helpful. You may expect some good news in terms of your sibling's success. You are likely to be in a winning position in legal matters. Students may be more focused to achieve their targets.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today your communication skills may help you in terms of business. You may likely be more polite with everyone around you, which may help you to speed up your projects. Lovebirds are likely to exchange their views with each other, which can make their foundation stronger.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today you are blessed by the moon. New Partnerships may give you benefits. Your energy levels may be high. Your hard work and enthusiasm may pay you off in terms of financial gains. Self respect may protect you from negative people around you.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today you are likely to meet some old friends or be busy with social get-togethers. You may be more excited today. New innovations may be there in terms of business. You are likely to see some unexpected material gains. Your children may bring good news in terms of academics. Lovebirds may enjoy quality moments.

KIDZONE



Akash Sahani, 13 Years, Sree Vidyanikethan School

Gurujeet Shetty, 13 Years, Vidyaniketan Public School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No.4, KSCCF Compound, Pampa Maha Kavi Road, Chamrajpet, Bengaluru 560 018; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
(¼ × ⅘ × ⅛ × ⅔)!
(2 × 16 × ½)!
(32 × ½)!
4!
24

BULL'S EYE
list, silt, slit, stil,
STYLIST, tilt

STRIKE OUT

A	D	R	E	N	A	L	T	A	B	B	Y			
I		S	A	M		I	N	C			K			
R		P	R	O	W	L	E	R			S			
A	F	A	I	R		A	G	O	U	T	I			
U		L		S	K	I		H			R			
Q	U	E	E	R		E	L	I	D	S				
A		L		E	N	N	U	I		I	B			
P	I	T	T		I	D	I	S	C	O				
S	X	S	A	L		L		J						
E	V	E	N	E	D		H	A	S	H	E	D		
R		I	M	I	T	A	T	E			O			
I		K	E	A		T	A	U			O			
D	A	G	G	E	R		T	I	E	D	U	P		
T		G		E		A		L			R			
N	E	S	S		A	N	G	E	L	I	N	A		
		A		T		S		S			U			
T	U	T	O	R	E	D		C	O	U	P	E		
		N		D		M			F					
A	D	I	E	U		C	O	N	F	E	S	S		
U		S		T		R			H					
O	B	S	I	D	I	A	N		F	R	O	M		
A	R	R	E	A	R		N	O	I	S	E	S		
A		D		A		I		L			W			
D	A	G	G	E	R		T	I	E	D	U	P		
E		D		A		P		D			E			

QUICK

MENSA PUZZLE
R: skip two letters then three, le
AbcDefgHijKlmnOpqR.

QUOTE UNCODE
Be who you are and say what you feel, because those who mind don't matter and those who matter don't mind.

SUDOKU

9	5	1	8	2	7	3	6	4
3	8	7	5	4	6	9	1	2
2	4	6	3	1	9	8	7	5
4	9	8	6	5	2	7	3	1
7	2	5	9	3	1	6	4	8
1	6	3	4	7	8	2	5	9
6	3	4	2	8	5	1	9	7
5	7	2	1	9	3	4	8	6
8	1	9	7	6	4	5	2	3

ALPHA TRIANGLE
5, Is, Sit, Fist,
First, Fruits,
Surfeit.

LOOP

GO FIGURE
Easy
5 – 4 + 8 – 1 = 8
Medium
5 + 3 + 2 + 7 = 17
Hard
2 × 6 × 2 + 5 = 29

KAKURO

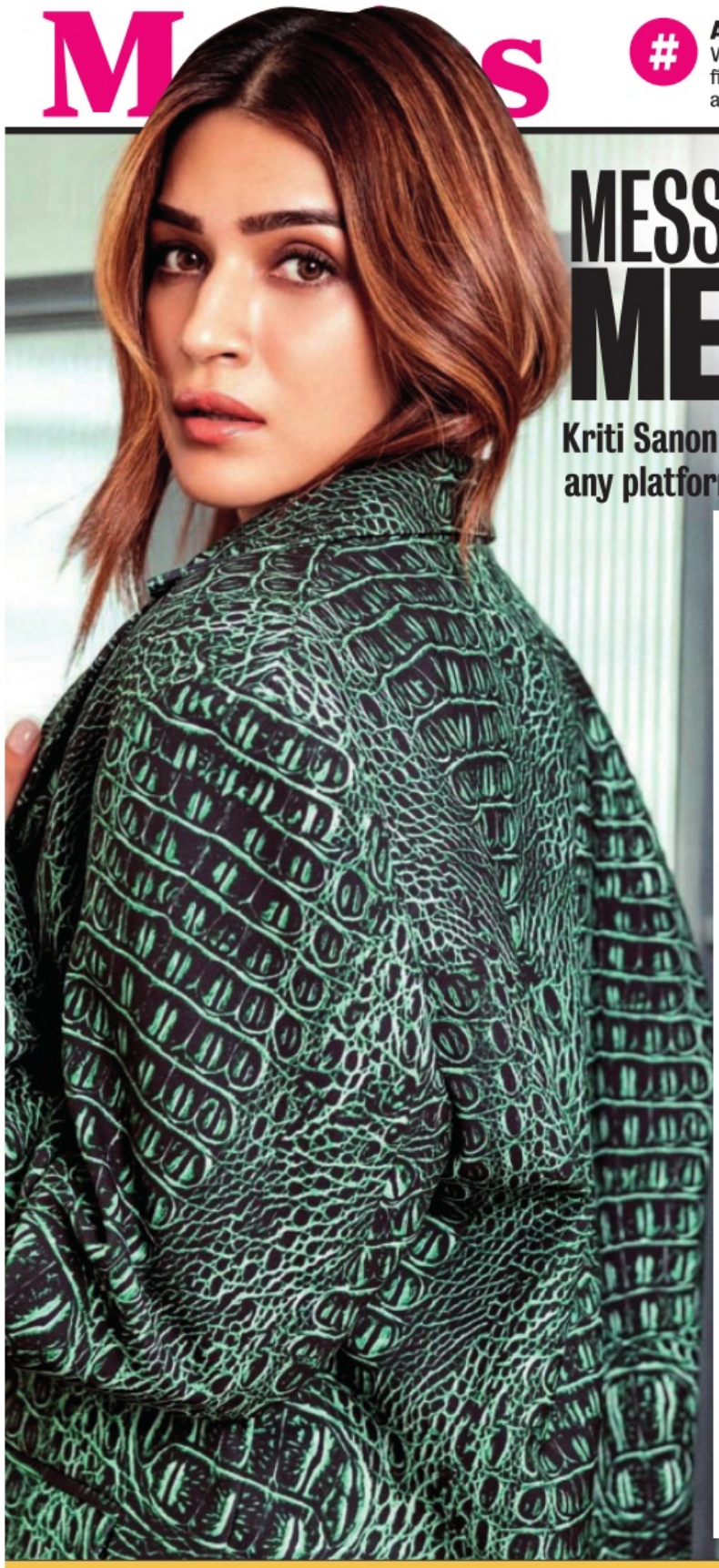
FAST FIVE

S	I	E	G	E
C	H	U	N	K
O	S	S	I	A
R	I	S	E	N
C	R	I	B	S

RIDDLER
EWE Farewell,
skewer, jewel, ewer.

Volume No 15, Issue No 40 RNI NO:KARENG/2007/22411 Published for the Proprietors, Metropolitan Media Company Ltd by R.J. Prakashan at No.4, KSCCF Compound, Pampa Maha Kavi Road, Chamrajpet, Bengaluru 560 018 and printed by him at Fourth Estate Ltd, No. 9/10/11-A, 4th Main, Bommasandra Industrial Area, Hosur Road, Bengaluru 560099 (Phones : Press : 080-22899999; Editorial : 080-40877666, Fax – 40877545, Registered Office: No.4, KSCCF Compound, Pampa Maha Kavi Road, Chamarajpet, Bengaluru 560 018. Email : mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com Editor : Ms. Seena Menon – responsible for selection of news under PRB Act. © Reproduction in whole or in part without the written permission of the Publisher is prohibited.

 # Amrish Puri's grandson in global series
Veteran actor Amrish Puri's grandson, Vardhan Puri, who made his film debut in 2019 with the film 'Yeh Saali Aashiqui' is all set to work on an international series and will be starting its shoot in June



MESSAGE OVER MEDIUM

Kriti Sanon says she is ready for any platform to tell a good story

While many actors have moved to doing projects on the digital medium, Kriti Sanon is yet to take a plunge into the OTT world. One of her best films however did release on the medium giving her a taste of the medium.

Though she is yet to explore web shows, Kriti is happy with the kind of attention her film, which was to be a theatrical release, but went on OTT due to the pandemic, won! She says, "My biggest validation and biggest success has been Mimi, which was my digital debut. It was made for theatres, but it released digitally. Yet, it gave me all the love and a lot more."

With this, the actress feels like whatever be the medium, the story has been intriguing. She elaborates the point saying, "I feel like, honestly, people are watching content everywhere. It doesn't matter where (the medium) you tell the story, it all depends on what story you are telling. So, I am open to telling any great story on any platform."

This year the actress is excited to be seen in an action avatar in Ganapath. In an earlier chat, she had said, "You will see me in a very different, very Mad Max-ish (international film franchise) looking zone..."

—Onkar Kulkarni, ETimes

No leading lady for IAK

Rumours are rife for a while now that Saif Ali Khan's son, Ibrahim Ali Khan is set to make his Bollywood debut soon. His debut project is reportedly titled 'Sarzameen' and is directed by Kayoze Irani and Etimes had reported earlier that he left for Kullu Manali on February 20, to begin shooting for the film.

Now as per a report in Bollywood Hungama, Ibrahim won't have a leading lady in the film. The actor was quite sure he doesn't want a conventional debut and he's ready for a challenge. 'Sarzameen' sees him as a soldier.

He has been preparing for the role for more than six months, including modifying his diet and working out to look the part of a committed and disciplined soldier. An insider had told Etimes, "Ibrahim is far more committed to his project than his father Saif was at the beginning of his career. Ibrahim has been in preparation for the longest time. He has been on a strict diet regime and physical training for months now. As he leaves for the shooting he is fully equipped to handle his complex role."

The film also stars Kajol and Malayalam superstar Prithviraj Sukumaran.

— ETimes

Encore, Ri

She has won her first Oscar nomination this year. Now fans will be elated to know that Rihanna will perform the Oscar-nominated song "Lift Me Up" from "Black Panther: Wakanda Forever" at the 95th Academy Awards ceremony. The executive producers and showrunners Glenn Weiss and Ricky Kirshner have announced it, reported.

The song 'Lift Me Up' is composed by Tems, Rihanna, Ryan Coogler and Ludwig Goransson while Tems and Ryan Coogler penned the lyrics of the song.

Rihanna, who has not released a new album since 2016's "Anti," headlined the Super Bowl halftime show earlier this month. Her performance got somehow overshadowed by the fact that she is expecting a second child. Though Rihanna made no reference to it during the show but was visibly pregnant and reps confirmed the news shortly after the performance.

— Agencies

Lights, action, revenge

GOWLI
3 RATING ★★★☆☆
- **DIRECTOR** Soora
- **ACTORS** Srinagara Kitty, Pavana Gowda, Rangayana Raghu, Sharath Lohitashwa, Cockroach Sudhir
- **Duration** 142 minutes
- **Certification** U/A

The story of Gowli revolves around a cattle-herding community. The movie begins with three drunk men on their way home. At home, two of them find their wives quarrelling with each other. One of the men beats his wife brutally. Girija (Pavana Gowda), the wife of Gowli, rushes to the woman's rescue saying that it is her duty to help and support those who are in distress. The drunkards insult her.

The director introduces us to Gowli (Srinagara Kitty), an affectionate father of Puttavva (Namana Naveen) who is suffering with temporary speech loss. Gowli and his Girija live without interfering in others' issues. While Gowli is busy with agriculture and herding cattle, Girija takes tuition for children of the village. Meanwhile, JD Kalinga (Sharath Lohitashwa), a police inspector joins hands with Tumbe (Yash Shetty), the leader of a gang engaged in robbery and stealing cattle. When Kalinga gets a complaint about a girl going missing after attending tuition at Girija's house, he visits Gowli's house and misbehaves with Girija and gets slapped by her. To avenge embarrassment, Kalinga engages the three drunkards to steal cattle and burn Gowli's house. What happens to Gowli, Girija and Puttavva is what the movie is about.

Srinagara Kitty, who makes a comeback after a gap of six years, is at his best. He is convincing as a humble and affectionate husband and responsible father during the pre-intermission scenes. And post-intermission, he has acted well as a person who revolts against the police to avenge wrongs done to him.

Pavana Gowda has got a golden opportunity to showcase her acting skills. Her performance in romantic and sentimental scenes is very good. Namana Naveen is cute and has acted well. Veteran character artiste Rangayana Raghu is at his best. Sharath Lohitashwa is convincing as a corrupt and lecherous police inspector who has nothing to do except smoking cigarettes and emptying liquor bottles. Yash Shetty and Cockroach Sudhir provide good support.

The movie would have been a better one had the director cut the running time, especially the lengthy climax, by 20 or 30 minutes. It would be difficult for a section of the audience to cope with the long and violent sequence.

Do catch this film if you want to know about the Gowlis and see Srinagara Kitty on the silver screen after a long gap.

—Y Maheswara Reddy